**Overview**

The CBS television network produced *Hawaii Five-O*, which aired from September 20, 1968 to April 4, 1980. Currently, the program is broadcast in syndication worldwide and via on-demand streaming media from CBS Interactive. Created by Leonard Freeman, *Hawaii Five-O* was shot on location in Honolulu, Hawaii, and throughout the island of Oahu as well as other Hawaiian islands — with occasional filming in other locales like Los Angeles, Singapore and Hong Kong.

*[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jack_Lord_Hawaii_Five-O_title_220px.png)Hawaii Five-O* centers on a fictional state police force (named in honor of Hawaii's status as the 50th State)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaii_Five-O#cite_note-fiveofaq-2) led by former U.S. naval officer Steve McGarrett (played by Jack Lord), who was appointed by the Governor, Paul Jameson (played by Richard Denning). In the show, McGarrett oversaw State Police officers — a young officer, Danny Williams (played by Tim O'Kelly in the show's pilot but replaced in the regular series by James MacArthur), Chin Ho Kelly (played by Kam Fong) and Kono Kalakaua (played by Zulu). Also, Honolulu Police Department [Officer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police) Duke Lukela (played by Herman Wedemeyer) joined the team as a regular, as did Ben Kokua (played by Al Harrington) who replaced Kono. Occasionally, McGarrett's Five-O team was assisted by other officers on an "as-needed" basis: medical examiner Doc Bergman (played by Al Eben), forensic specialist Che Fong (played by Harry Endo) and a secretary. The first secretary was May (played by Maggi Parker), then Jenny (played by Peggy Ryan) and later Luana (played by Laura Sode-Matteson).

For twelve seasons, McGarrett and his team hounded international secret agents, criminals, and Mafia syndicates plaguing the Hawaiian Islands. With the aid of District Attorney and later Hawaii's Attorney General John Manicote (played by Glenn Cannon), McGarrett was successful in sending most of his enemies to prison. One such Mafia syndicate was led by crime family patriarch Honore Vashon (played by Harold Gould), a character introduced in the fifth season. Most episodes of *Hawaii Five-O* ended with the arrest of criminals and McGarrett stating "Book 'em!" The offense occasionally was added after this phrase, such as "Book 'em, murder one!" In many episodes this was directed to Williams and became McGarrett's catch phrase: "Book 'em, Danno!”

Other criminals and organized crime bosses on the islands were played by actors such as Ricardo Montalbán, Gavin MacLeod, and Ross Martin as Tony Alika. By the 12th and final season, series regular James MacArthur had left the show (in 1996, he admitted that he had become tired and wanted to do other things), as had Kam Fong. Unlike other characters before him, Fong's character Chin Ho did not just vanish from the show but instead was murdered while working undercover to expose a protection ring in Chinatown (last episode, season 10). New characters Jim 'Kimo' Carew (played by William Smith), Lori Wilson (played by Sharon Farrell), and Truck (played by Moe Keale) were introduced in season 12 alongside returning regular character Duke Lukela.

The *Five-O* team consisted of four or five members (small for a real state police unit), and was portrayed as occupying a suite of offices in the Iolani Palace. The office interiors were sets on a soundstage. Five-O lacked its own radio network, necessitating frequent requests by McGarrett to the Honolulu Police Department dispatchers to "Patch me through to Danno". McGarrett's tousled yet immovable hairstyle, as well as his proclivity for wearing a dark suit and tie on all possible occasions, rapidly entered popular culture.

In many episodes (including the pilot), McGarrett was drawn into the world of international espionage and national intelligence. McGarrett's arch-nemesis was a rogue intelligence officer of the People's Republic of China, named Wo Fat. The Communist rogue agent was played by veteran actor Khigh Dheigh. The show's final episode in 1980 was titled "Woe to Wo Fat", in which McGarrett finally saw his foe Wo go to jail.

This television show's action and straightforward story-telling left little time for personal stories involving wives or girlfriends, though a two-part story in the first season dealt with the loss of McGarrett's sister's baby. Occasionally, a show would flash back to McGarrett's younger years or to a romantic figure. The viewer was left with the impression that McGarrett, at that point in his life, much like *Dragnet'*s Joe Friday, was wedded to the police force and to crime-fighting. Teetotaler McGarrett often worked very late at the office, long after his colleagues had gone home.

In the episode "Number One with a Bullet (Part 2)", McGarrett tells a criminal: "It was a bastard like you who killed my father." His 42-year-old father had been run down and killed by someone who had just held up a supermarket. Since the Steve McGarrett character was also a commander in the Naval Reserve, he sometimes used their resources to help investigate and solve crimes. Hence the closing credits of some episodes mentioned the Naval Reserve.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaii_Five-O#cite_note-6) A 1975 episode involving Danno's aunt (played by MacArthur's real life mother Helen Hayes) provided a bit of Williams' back story.

*Hawaii Five-O* survived long enough to overlap with reruns of early episodes, which by then had entered syndication while new episodes were still being produced. The 12th season was repackaged into syndication under the title *McGarrett*.

**Biography Of Jack Lord**

Brooklyn-born actor John Joseph Patrick Ryan borrowed his stage name "Jack Lord" from a distant relative. Spending his immediate post-college years as a seafaring man, Lord worked as an engineer in Persia before returning to American shores to manage a Greenwich Village art school and paint original work; he flourished within that sphere (often signing his paintings "John J. Ryan,") and in fact exhibited the tableaux at an array of prestigious institutions including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Modern Museum of Art. Lord switched to acting in the late 1940s, studying under Sanford Meisner at New York's Neighborhood Playhouse. In films and television from 1949, Lord (a performer with stark features including deep-set eyes and high cheekbones) played his share of brutish villains and working stiffs before gaining TV fame as star of the critically acclaimed but low-rated rodeo series Stoney Burke (1962).

At around the same time, Lord played CIA agent Felix Leiter in the first James Bond film, Dr. No. From 1968 through 1980, Lord starred on the weekly cop drama Hawaii Five-O; producers cast him as Steve McGarrett, a troubleshooter with the Hawaii State Police who spent his days cruising around the islands, cracking open individual cases, and taking on the movers and shakers in Hawaiian organized crime, particularly gangster Wo Fat (Khigh Dhiegh), who eluded capture until the program's final month on the air. Lord also wrote and directed several episodes. After Hawaii 5-0 folded, Jack Lord attempted another Hawaii-based TV series, but M Station: Hawaii (1980) never got any farther than a pilot film. Lord died of congestive heart failure in his Honolulu beachfront home at the age of 77, in January 1998. He was married to Marie Denarde for 50 years.

**Biography of James MacArthur**

James MacArthur was adopted as an infant, by parents very accomplished in film and theater. His mother, Helen Hayes, was lauded for decades as the greatest American actress alive, "the first lady of the American stage", and two theaters on Broadway have been named in her honor. His father, Charles MacArthur, co-wrote *The Front Page* (also known as *His Girl Friday*). MacArthur's uncle was one of America's wealthiest men, insurance magnate and philanthropist John D. MacArthur.

In his most famous role, MacArthur played the cop Danny Williams, Jack Lord's sidekick on *Hawaii Five-O*. Lord's grim episode-by-episode closing line to MacArthur's character was, "Book him, Dano". Prior to *Five-O*, MacArthur starred in Disney adventures including *Kidnapped* and *Swiss Family Robinson*. He played the John-Boy character in a pre-*Waltons* film of *Spencer's Mountain*, and he had a small but significant role in the taut but forgotten 1965 thriller *The Bedford Incident*. In the ludicrous 1967 hippie flick *The Love-Ins*, MacArthur's character hung out on Haight-Ashbury and smoked banana peels.

**Creation of the show**

The idea for the show may have come from a conversation producer Leonard Freeman had with then-Hawaii Governor John A. Burns. Another source instead claims that Freeman wanted to set a show in San Pedro, California until his friend Richard Boone convinced him to shoot it entirely in Hawaii. A third source claims Freeman discussed the show with Governor Burns only after pitching the idea to CBS. Before settling on the name "Hawaii Five-O", Freeman considered titling the show "The Man".

**Casting**

* Jack Lord played Steve McGarrett, leader of this theoretical band of law enforcement agents. Lord had been a relatively well known actor (Being cast in Dr No didn’t hurt) . Nevertheless, the producers were looking at even more famous actors and settled on Lord at the last minute.
* James McArthur played Lt Danny Williams (known as Dano), McGarrett’s right hand man. We don’t believe that he was in the pilot, a term used in the production world to denote a demo created for selling the show. But, once this went into weekly production, Williams character became McGarrett’s right hand man
* Kam Fong played Chin Ho. Fong was a retired Honolulu police detective and had dabbled in acting. He applied for the show in essence to be part of the background but apparently the producers liked what they saw and gave him a more permanent role

Freeman offered Richard Boone the part of McGarrett but Boone turned it down; Gregory Peck and Robert Brown were also considered for the part. Ultimately, Jack Lord — then living in Beverly Hills — was asked at the last moment. Lord read for the part on a Wednesday and was cast for the part and flew to Hawaii two days later. On the following Monday, Lord was in front of the cameras. Freeman and Lord had worked together previously on an unsold TV pilot called *Grand Hotel*[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Chin_Ho_head_shot.jpg)

Kam Fong, an 18-year veteran of the Honolulu Police Department, auditioned for the part of the lead villain Wo Fat, but Freeman cast him in the part of Chin Ho Kelly instead. Freeman took the name Wo Fat from a restaurant in downtown Honolulu. The name Chin Ho came from Chinn Ho, the owner of the Ilikai Hotel where the penthouse shot of Steve McGarrett in the opening title was made. Richard Denning, who played the governor, had retired to Hawaii and came out of retirement for the show. Zulu was a Waikiki beach boy and local DJ when he was cast for the part of Kono, which he played for the next four years. John Nordlum worked as a stunt man for Jack Lord.

**Production**

The first season was shot in a rusty military Quonset hut in Pearl City, which the various cast members quickly nicknamed "Mongoose Manor." The roof tended to leak, and rats would often gnaw at the cables. The show then moved to a warehouse. A third studio was then built at Diamond Head, and was used for the next eleven seasons.

A problem from the beginning was the lack of a movie industry in Hawaii. Therefore, much of the crew and cast, including many locals who ended up participating in the show, all had to learn their respective jobs as they went along. Jack Lord was known as a perfectionist who insisted on the best from everyone. His temper flared when he felt that others did not give their best, but in later reunions they admitted that Lord's hard driving force had made them better actors and made *Hawaii Five-O* a better show. Lord's high standards also helped the show last another seven years after Leonard Freeman's death during the sixth season (from heart trouble).

To critics and viewers, there was no question that Jack Lord was the center of the show, and that the other actors frequently served as little more than props, standing and watching while McGarrett emoted and paced around his office, analyzing the crime. But occasionally episodes would focus on the other actors, and let them showcase their own talents. In addition to his on-screen role, Jack Lord is reputed to have been a silent partner in all aspects of the production of *Hawaii Five-O,* even more so as the series grew in popularity during the 1970s.

Very few episodes were shot outside of Hawaii. At least two episodes were shot in Los Angeles, one in Hong Kong and one in Singapore. Episodes shot in these locations were the only ones not to bear the "Filmed entirely on location in Hawaii" legend.

**Credits**

The opening title sequence was created by noted television director Reza S. Badiyi. Early shows began with a cold open suggesting the sinister plot for the night's program, then cut to a big ocean wave and the start of the dynamic theme song. A fast zoom-in to the top balcony of the Ilikai Hotel would follow, where McGarrett turns to face the camera, followed by many quick-cuts and freeze-frames of Hawaiian scenery, and Hawaiian-Chinese-Caucasian model Elizabeth Malamalamaokalani Logue turning to face the camera. A grass-skirted hula dancer from the pilot episode is seen, played by Helen Kuoha-Torco who later became a real-life professor of business technology at Windward Community College. The opening scene winds up with shots of the supporting players, and the flashing blue light of a police motorcycle racing through a Honolulu street.

At the conclusion of each episode, after the obligatory "Book 'em Danno!", Jack Lord would narrate a teaser for the next week's episode, often emphasizing the "guest villain", especially if the villain was a recurring character, such as played by actor Hume Cronyn. He would say: "This is Jack Lord inviting you to be with us next week for <name of episode>" and then closing the preview by saying, "Be here. Aloha." The teasers were removed from the syndicated episodes to clear time for additional commercial sales, although most have been restored in DVD releases from the second season onward.

There are two versions of the closing credits portion of the show. During the first season, the theme music was played over a short film of a flashing blue light attached to the rear of a police motorcycle in Waikiki heading west (the film is shown at twice the normal speed, as can be seen from people crossing a street behind the police motorcycle). In later seasons, the same music played over film of some outrigger canoeists battling the surf.

**Legacy**

The show was the longest running crime show on American television until *Law & Order* surpassed it in 2003. The popularity of the *Hawaii Five-O* format spawned various police dramas on all the major television networks.

Known for the location, theme song, and ensemble cast, *Hawaii Five-O* is also noted for its liberal use of exterior location shooting throughout the entire twelve seasons. A typical episode, on average, would have at least two-thirds of all footage shot on location, as opposed to a "typical" show of the time which would be shot largely on sound stages and [backlots](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Backlot). It is also remembered for its relatively unique setting, notable during a time when most crime dramas of the era were set in or around the Los Angeles area.

The term "Five-O" was adopted by American youth culture as a street slang term for the police.

The Hawaiian-based television show *Magnum, P.I.* was created after *Hawaii Five-O* ended its run, in order to make further use of the expensive production facilities created there for *Five-O*. The first few Magnum P.I. episodes made direct references to *Five-O*, suggesting that it takes place in the same fictional universe.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaii_Five-O#cite_note-Snauffer-5)

The vast majority of characters in the show were Caucasian, whereas only 40% of the population of the state identified themselves as non-Hispanic Caucasian. However, many local people were cast in the show, which was ethnically diverse by the standards of the late 1960s. The first run and syndication were seen by an estimated 400,000,000 people around the world.

A measure of the show's high popularity was that it was lampooned in *Mad Magazine*, in a typical not-very-subtle satire called "How-Are-Ya Five-O", which appeared in 1971. The characters were renamed Steve "McGarrish" and "Dummy" Williams.

The closing-credits image of the police car's flashing light point-of-view would be satirized years later in the opening credits of the TV series *Police Squad!* and *The Naked Gun* film series. Coincidentally, those shows starred Leslie Nielsen, who was one of the guest cast in the *Hawaii Five-O* pilot.

A one-hour pilot for a new series was made in 1996 but never aired. Produced and written by Stephen J. Cannell, it starred Gary Busey and Russell Wong as the new Five-O team. James MacArthur briefly returned as Dan Williams, now governor of Hawaii. Several cameos were made by other Five-O regulars.

**Theme song**

Another legacy of the show is the popularity of the *Hawaii Five-O* theme song. The song was composed by Morton Stevens, who also composed numerous episode scores. The song, which has been covered by The Ventures,[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaii_Five-O#cite_note-Newcomb-4) is particularly popular with college and high school marching bands, especially at the University of Hawaii where it has become the unofficial fight song.

Although the theme song is most widely known as an instrumental, it has been released with at least two different sets of lyrics. The first, by Don Ho, starts with the familiar tempo, then settles into a ballad style. The second, by Sammy Davis, Jr., titled "You Can Count on Me (Theme from Hawaii Five-O)", maintains the driving style of the original instrumental throughout. The Radio Birdman version was called "Aloha, Steve & Danno".

Pilot *Cocoon*   
Steve McGarrett, the head of a special investigative unit of the Hawaii State Government, probes the death of a close friend, only to discover that the man did not drown as was commonly believed.

**FIRST SEASON (1968-1969):**

*Full fathom five*

Steve McGarrett is assigned by the governor of Hawaii to break up a confidence racket bilking rich visiting widows of their fortunes.

*Strangers in our own land*

Five-O probes into the death by bombing of an official who was influential in changing the face of the islands.

*Tiger by the tail*   
A young singer arranges his own kidnapping as a publicity stunt, but it backfires when his father offers a huge reward for his return.

*Samurai*   
Five-O has to protect a Honolulu racket boss being threatened by a secret Japanese society at the same time as they are trying to convict him for his underworld activities.

*....And they painted daisies on his coffin*   
Danny Williams is indicted for murdering an apparently unarmed teenage boy.

*Twenty-four karat kill*   
Five-O investigates a fishing boat owner who is smuggling gold bars into the islands.

*The ways of love*   
McGarrett has himself committed to a California prison in order to obtain information linking the disappearance of a priceless jewel collection to the death of a beautiful woman.

*No blue skies*   
Joey Rand, a young singer, turns to cat burglary when he finds his singing career provides insufficient funds to pay his gambling debts.

*By the numbers*   
Five-O is called in when a winning ticket in a numbers game turns out to be a loser and a young Army corporal is accused of a crime.

*Yesterday died and tomorrow won't be born*   
When McGarrett is felled by an unknown assassin and hospitalized, Danno takes over Five-O and starts a desperate search for clues.

*Deathwatch*   
McGarrett and Five-O provide protective custody to save the life of a gangster they despise so he can testify against his former boss.

*Pray love remember, pray love remember*   
When a young female student is found murdered, suspicion falls on her boyfriend after it's revealed they had a quarrel before her death.

*King of the hill*   
When Danno tries to assist a young Marine veteran suffering a psychotic breakdown which makes him think he is back in Vietnam, the Marine holds Danno prisoner in a hospital ward.

*Up tight*   
The death of a young girl under the influence of drugs leads Five-O to track down the supplier, a self-styled guru who is headmaster to a hippie cult.

*Face of the dragon*   
A man who is carrying bubonic plague turns up in the Hawaiian islands at the same time that plans for a top-secret military weapon disappear.

*The box*   
McGarrett offers himself as hostage in an attempted prison break.

*One for the money*   
Two nephews in competition for a family fortune are suspects when employees of a million-dollar corporation are threatened and the aging baroness of the corporation mysteriously disappears.

*Along came Joey*   
A policeman starts a personal vendetta against the killers of his son, a young prizefighter who had been bribed to fix a fight.

*Once upon a time, part I*   
 *Once upon a time, part II*   
Steve McGarrett flies to Los Angeles to build a case against a quack doctor who is victimizing his sister and her ill baby.

021 *Not that much different*   
McGarrett has to overcome resistance by members of a peace movement while investigating the murder of one of their leaders.

022 *Six kilos*   
McGarrett assumes the identity of a safecracker to infiltrate a sophisticated international syndicate.

**023** *The big kahuna*   
An old man's nephew and his wife create apparitions of an ancient goddess of fire in an attempt to do away with him and gain control of his valuable land.